

Schott (Fuller) (Divorce)

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IT is always painful to expose the transactions of domestic life before the public eye ; and the honorable mind recoils with inexpressible reluctance from the task, when it involves the obtrusion of scenes of a delicate and distressing character. But there are occasions when self-respect—when self-preservation—demands a sacrifice of these natural feelings ; and when a regard for others, near and dear, whose good name and happiness are inseparably connected with our own, requires a performance of the task, as a sacred, though painful duty. Silence under wrong and calumny is often a virtue ; but it ceases to be so, when it permits injury to reputation and to the feelings of relatives and friends.

In the late proceedings for a divorce instituted by Mrs. Schott at the Court of Common Pleas of the City of Philadelphia, it was the advice of counsel (and the advice harmonised with my own wishes) that I should make no defence, but suffer the divorce to be decreed by default. The motives were—delicacy and policy. I could not appear in a defensive position without exposing scenes, which, though involving not myself, but others, I desired, as I still desire, to preserve under the veil of secrecy ; and I was instructed by counsel, that any defence I should make would operate virtually as *opposition* to the application for divorce, and that it was scarcely probable that the divorce, which I was most anxious, for my own sake, should be obtained, could be granted, if opposed by me. I did not appear, to oppose it ; and the divorce was granted. The grant of the divorce, which was, of all things on earth, by me most anxiously and devoutly wished for, I then regarded, and now regard, as the greatest blessing which could be bestowed on me by human agency. I would, at any moment, have infinitely preferred the perilling of my own life to

doing any act which could possibly endanger the grant of that, without which existence would have been a curse. My non-appearance in court has been, undoubtedly, in some quarters, construed into a tacit admission of the truth of the charges against me, upon which the application for divorce was founded. But now that the divorce has been obtained, I am free to perform the duty, however reluctantly, of replying to these charges, and of narrating, in brief outline, the circumstances which led to the application, as well as those connected with my meeting with Mr. Pierce Butler.

Early in March last, I had occasion to proceed to New York in company with Mr. Pierce Butler, upon business which required our personal attention in that city. Mrs. Schott desired me to take her with me, that she might go to the opera. I agreed to do so ; and to make the jaunt more agreeable to her, I invited her two sisters, married ladies, to join the party ; and one of them accepted the invitation, and went with us. Mr. Pierce Butler, at that time, I regarded as my friend, and had entire confidence in him. Some circumstances of conduct, indeed, on his part and on that of Mrs. S. had previously occurred, to which I might have taken, and, to a certain extent, did take exception ; but as I did not conceive Mr. B. capable of any base intentions, or Mrs. S. of any conduct unbecoming a lady and a wife, I easily brought myself to view them as thoughtless imprudences, and therefore passed them over,—though not without remonstrating with Mrs. S. on the subject. All former circumstances, however, had been forgotten ; and I proceeded to New York without suspicion. Here the refusal of Mrs. S., while in a public hotel, to occupy the same room with me, and her insisting, contrary to my wishes and in spite of my remonstrances, upon having a separate chamber,—to which she removed her baggage, without my knowledge, the morning after our arrival,—which chamber was apart from her sister's and my own,—were the first circumstances that created a painful impression on my mind ; but it was on the night of Sa-

Saturday, the 9th, at midnight, that a circumstance occurred, to which I have no desire to give publicity, nor to say one word more of it, than that it was of a character to justify—in fact, to render imperatively necessary,—all the steps which I took in consequence of it. What was sufficiently painful in the circumstance, became still more so from its happening in a public hotel, where I could not take such steps as I desired to take, without giving a scandalous notoriety to the affair, and involving—or rather connecting—in the disgrace of it, a member of the party who had no implication in it, and who was a lady under my protection as my guest. These considerations, and her entreaties and tears, not only prevented my taking any violent steps, and induced me to delay seeking satisfaction for the wrong I had received, until I could return to Philadelphia; but were the cause of my allowing Mr. Butler to keep up the appearance of still being a member of the party, so long as we continued at the hotel. This was, undoubtedly, a weakness on my part; and Mr. B., with the knavish craft natural to his character, has taken advantage of it, in his letter accepting my challenge, as an argument to prove that he could not have done me any wrong, or that I did not *then* think it one. My letter to Mr. Otis, of 11th of April, in answer to this, will, perhaps, satisfactorily explain my conduct. But I must here again say, that I was in a public hotel with my party, where the slightest act,—and certainly the expulsion of Mr. B. from the party,—would have produced a shameful explosion; that I was myself desirous to avoid this; and that the lady alluded to, implored me, out of regard to her and our respective families,—and wrung from me a promise not to expose them in New York,—to do nothing, and to submit to Mr. B's remaining, in appearance, a member of the party, as if nothing had happened, until we left New York. Nobody knows better than Mr. B. the true state of the case,—that I distinctly told him on Sunday, the day after the occurrence, that “nothing but my promise to the lady in question, protected him from my just indignation while in New

York.” And that no doubt should remain as to the course I intended to pursue, I wrote and caused to be delivered to him, on Monday, the 11th, a note, of which the following is a copy—*formally* expressing the intention, on paper, which I had before distinctly declared to him in words :

SIR,

I scarcely deem it necessary to say to you, that, on our return to Philadelphia, all intercourse between us must cease, and that your visits to my family must be discontinued.

I trust that the time may yet come when I shall be able, without compromising others, to vindicate my own honor.

Your obedient servant,

(Signed)

JAMES SCHOTT, Jr.

PIERCE BUTLER, Esq.

Astor House, March 11, 1844.

That, in this period of inaction and apparent calm, and of attempted concealment of a grievous wrong, there was no want of those feelings natural to a man on such an occasion, will be apparent from the following extract of a letter to my brother, G. Bryan Schott, from H. Toland, Jr. Esq., my friend and business correspondent in New York, who saw me the day I left that city, but who was entirely ignorant of what had happened.

New York, 9th April, 1844.

DEAR SIR:—I have known your brother so intimately, that I needed no request to suspend my opinion about his present misfortunes. When he came to see me on the day he left for Philadelphia, I was shocked and distressed at the change in his manner and appearance, though he said nothing to me, (and I am at this time ignorant of the true state of the case,) yet I was satisfied that something *terrible* must have occurred.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed)

H. TOLAND, Jr.

G. BRYAN SCHOTT, Esq., *Philadelphia.*

Upon the same day, I returned to Philadelphia, with Mrs. S. and the lady, her companion; and on Wednesday, the 13th, I addressed Mrs. S. the following note, which will perhaps explain itself; or, at all events, will indicate some of the feelings by which I was agitated, as well on account of what had happened, as of the frame and temper of mind exhibited by Mrs. S. under circumstances to me so overpoweringly afflictive:

“ Having weighed every adverse consideration that could influence me in our difficulties, having balanced how far I ought to protect your character and prevent the exposure of my own degradation, and reflected on what is due to my injured feelings, and the satisfaction my wounded honor calls for, I have decided that the breach between us is beyond all reparation. A separation, therefore, is inevitable, and, of course, my injuries must be made known to your family, if not laid open to the world. Had you made a confession of your guilt, had you displayed the slightest penitence or remorse, had you admitted what I saw with my own eyes, I would have forgiven you—not that anything could restore my lost affection for you; but I should then have cherished some hope of reclaiming you. But after the effrontery you have shown, I am convinced that you have fallen so far from your original purity as to be beyond recovery; and therefore, you have forfeited all claim to my protection. As there is a just God in Heaven, whatever calamities may ensue, whatever blood may be shed, it rests on your soul.

(Signed)

JAMES SCHOTT, Jr.”

Philadelphia, March 13, 1844.

Three days afterwards, I intercepted a letter written by Mrs. S., and addressed to her sister, the lady who had been with us at New York. The following is a true copy of a paragraph which I extracted from it:

“PERHAPS IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR MR. B. TO SEND THE LETTER TO-NIGHT,—BUT I DO NOT ADVISE YOU, YOU CAN BEST JUDGE:—HE APPEARS CALM, AND RESOLVED; HE IS NOT VIOLENT. I ONLY HOPE IT MAY BE SUICIDE HE HAS DETERMINED ON; BUT I THINK A DUEL WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCE.”

I need not comment upon this paragraph—the kind of spirit it indicated—the *hope* it expressed—nor upon the effect it produced upon me. I might have hesitated—I had hesitated—in taking the steps which I felt that my own honor required; because with all the wrongs I had suffered, I could not but think painfully of the consequences these steps would bring upon her. This intercepted letter put an end to my hesitation, and I waited immediately upon Mr. Dallas, as legal counsel; and, at my request, he that night drew up the following articles of separation :

“Circumstances of a peculiarly painful nature, which it is deemed best not to recapitulate here or to permit mention of any where by the signers of this paper or by their friends; but which impress upon the minds of the parties the necessity of early and permanent separation, have determined Mr. James Schott, Jr. and his wife Ellen, to live henceforward apart from each other; and in order to effect this in a manner as little distressing to the feelings of their connexions and friends, and as becoming to themselves, as possible, they adopt and reciprocally engage to carry into execution the following course of action :

“*First*—Mrs. Schott is to leave her husband’s house, and to return to her father’s within a period of two months,* taking with her all her wardrobe and other personal effects procured and intended for her exclusive use, comfort or ornament.

* In the original articles of separation Mrs. Schott was to have left my house and gone to her father’s immediately, instead of at the expiration of two months. This modification was agreed to by me, to save Mrs. Schott from exposure.

Second—Mr. Schott disclaims now, and engages to disclaim at any time in more form if required, all right or wish to take, have, or in any respect interfere with, the property and estate of his wife, whether the same has heretofore been secured to her by marriage settlement, or has, since their marriage, or shall hereafter, come to her possession or right.

Third—The parties are henceforth to be entire strangers to each other; and should unforeseen events render their co-operation in matters of business necessary to their respective interests, the same shall be effected through the agency of others.

“Into this agreement we mutually and voluntarily
enter this day of , 1844.”

Having proceeded thus far in describing the steps which I took in regard to Mrs. S., I now think it necessary to disclose those which I instituted in relation to Mr. Butler. His friends have professed to think it very strange that I should suffer so long a period to elapse after the occurrence at New York, before making a demand upon him for satisfaction, other than that contained in my letter to him at the Astor House of March the 11th. It will be seen that the delay arose, first, from unforeseen difficulties which I encountered in procuring the services of a friend; and next, after I had procured one, from the course of conduct which was adopted by Gen. McNeill, my official *adviser* in the business. Upon Tuesday, the 12th of March, the very day after I had written to Mr. Butler the note already inserted, I wrote to my old friend Purser McBlair, U. S. N., at Baltimore, requesting his friendly assistance; and confidently expected, day by day, to receive a favorable answer; until, on the 19th the following reply came to hand, which explains his delay in answering, and his inability to grant my request.

U. S. Ship Plymouth,
BOSTON HARBOR, *March 18, 1844.*

MY DEAR SCHOTT,
Your letter of 12th inst. reached me but *an hour or two ago.*

How much I regret you had not known where to find me, when you wrote ; for then, I could have left for a few days, and would have done so with much pleasure to serve a friend. Now 'tis impossible. Our ship is *under sailing orders*. We leave for the Mediterranean in all this week. We may not go till Saturday, but every officer is compelled to be aboard. I make no doubt you have ere this obtained the services of another, and most sincerely hope matters have been settled to your satisfaction. *May I ask what is the difficulty ?* Write me by return mail : the letter will be in time.

Most sincerely your friend,
(Signed) T. PARKIN McBLAIR.

Not hearing from Purser McBlair as soon as I expected, and fearing I should be disappointed in this quarter, I immediately sought it in another, as appears from the following note of Mr. Goodwin of Baltimore, in reply to one written by me :

BALTIMORE, *March 20th*, 1844, 10 A. M.

MY DEAR YOUNG FRIEND :

I have this moment received yours, bearing the post mark of yesterday. I most seriously sympathise with you in the truly unfortunate position in which you are placed, and would most cheerfully repair forthwith to your city, could I see how I could in any degree—consistently with my opinions, formed many years ago, and confirmed by increased years—serve you on the subject to which your letter refers. I have reached that period of life when one should, if ever, reflect seriously on every step he takes, and how he jostles with the prejudices and vices of the age. I can scarcely imagine any state of circumstances that would induce me to take the field, either as principal or second. “There is a time for all things.” Public opinion, to which I bow, would condemn me, and my conscience would reproach me. On the first,—having nothing left but my good name—I am depen-

dent whilst I remain on earth ; on the last, I must look when I am called to the realms above.

I know no man in whom I have more reliance in such matters than Gen. W. G. McNeill, who may probably be in your city ; if not, he is either at New York or Stonington. Write to him and say that it is at my suggestion.

I omitted to say, in its proper place, that if the circumstances of your case admitted of explanation or apology, I would come on in the hope of effecting a reconciliation ; but as that is the only way in which I could interfere, you will, I am sure, my dear James, after what I have said, duly appreciate my motives in declining to yield to your solicitations.

I feel deeply interested in this affair, and beg you will keep me apprised of its progress and results.

Yours most truly,

(Signed)

L. GOODWIN.

JAMES SCHOTT, JR., Esq.,

Philadelphia.

I had from the first—as early I think as the day after my arrival from New York, when I wrote to Purser McBlair—made application to my friend, Harrison Grey Otis, Jr., Esq., of Boston, for *his* services in case I should require them, in an affair of honor, the cause and nature of which I did not then inform him of. I did not think I could so justly claim this aid of him, with whom my acquaintance was not of so long standing, as of the two old and long tried friends to whom I first formally applied. I now, being disappointed in these two quarters, explained the circumstance to him, and solicited his assistance ; and he immediately, in the most generous manner, acceded to my request. I then applied to my friend Dr. George McClellan, desiring to engage his professional assistance ; which—after learning the nature of the occasion for which it was required—he agreed I should have, but he earnestly requested me to accede to the suggestion made by Mr. Goodwin,—

namely, to appeal to Gen. McNeill, a gentleman whom both these friends regarded, at that time, as possessing great experience in such affairs,—for advice and assistance. Such a recommendation made, and insisted upon, severally by two such gentleman as Mr. Goodwin and Dr. McClellan, I could not refuse to receive; and Mr. Otis approving of it, Gen. McNeill was sent for, and he arrived in Philadelphia on the night of the 27th.

The first act of Gen. McNeill was to express, as Dr. McClellan had done, an anxious desire to hush up the affair—an affair involving my own honor, the reputation of Mrs. S., and the feelings of two respectable families; and these considerations were pressed upon me so strongly, that I, at last, expressed my willingness, so far as Mrs. S. was concerned, to make any sacrifices that would save her from disgrace, and the feelings of friends from laceration. But I distinctly declared, that I would listen to no accommodation that interfered with the action I meditated with regard to Mr. Butler; and that the farthest I would go in relation to Mrs. S., would be to abandon the design of a formal separation, and to permit her to live in my house, separated from me *in fact*, but presenting to the world no *appearance* of separation. I was willing to put myself in the hands of my friends, and to be ruled by them, to this extent,—but no farther. Gen. McNeill then required that I should, with my friend Mr. Otis, proceed into the country, to avoid arrest and avert suspicion, and there await his orders. I went into the country accordingly.

It will be observed, that I had thus, in a manner, agreed to Gen. McNeill's arranging a *nominal* reconciliation—a reconciliation *in appearance* merely,—with Mrs. S. But, with that spirit of universal philanthropy which generally defeats its own purposes, it seems that Gen. McNeill, who assumed to himself a higher power than I delegated, and had a plan of his own, had formed ideas of a reconciliation *in fact*, and that not with Mrs. S. only, but with Mr. Butler also. And that he might effect this benevolent purpose,—that he might invite *concession* in other quarters,

by making some little concession on *my* side,—he commenced operations by addressing the following letter to Dr. McC., of which I only need say, first, that it was written for the purpose of being shown to Mrs. S.'s friends ; secondly, that it was written whilst I was in the country, where Gen. McN. himself had sent me ; thirdly, that it was written entirely without my knowledge, and, of course, without my concurrence ; and, fourthly, that the moment I heard of it, I protested against it,—or rather against those statements in it, in which Gen. McN. made admissions of such an unwarrantable character.

Gen. McNeil's letter was as follows :

*United States Hotel, Philadelphia,
Saturday, noon, March 30th, 1844.*

Dr. GEO. McCLELLAN,

Present,

MY DEAR SIR :—On Wednesday last, I, in New York, received a letter from you written from this place, of date the Saturday night 11½ o'clock, addressed to me at Stonington, Ct., informing me of an interview with Mr. James Schott, who had just called on you for your professional services in a contingency that might arise—because of impressions, on his part, of a most painful and distressing nature.

The condition which you were pleased to insist on, before you would consent to Mr. S.'s request, was that *I* should be appealed to for counsel, and that my decision should be final. It seems that Mr. S. had previously written to an honorable "friend" for his services on the contemplated *field of action*, and also to a gentleman, (like ourselves of mature years,) the relation of that friend ; and that the latter gentleman had also done me the honor to name me as, in his opinion, a suitable counsellor.

I am indebted to you both for the respect thus implied for my opinion :—while I need hardly add that my immediate resort to this city, on the receipt of your letter, has imposed a responsibi-

lity by no means enviable—Yet, in the same spirit in which I at once obeyed your summons, (the sincere desire to do good, and the firm determination to be impartial and as just as the infirmity of my own nature would permit,) I will now, unhesitatingly, assume the responsibility, however onerous, of expressing thus formally my *convictions*, which are the result of ample, deliberate, and anxious reflection.

Those convictions are—that whatever the impressions of the respective parties may be, there is no longer any tenable ground for Mr. S. to assert his suspicions; and therefore, that however confirmed he may have been, under the influence of an excited imagination, he is bound to doubt at least, if not fully to admit, that a false medium for the time distorted his usually correct and natural vision.—I would by no means have you understand that I, for one moment, doubt the sincere convictions under which Mr. S. acted. I ascribe his mistake to his proper sensitiveness, and that sensitiveness was proportionate to his ardent affection for his lady, on a proper return of which his happiness was dependent.

He felt himself aggrieved in the tenderest point: yet was his dependence *for happiness at home* such, that *I know* he would have buried in oblivion every thing but the recollection of the endearments of that home—till, unfortunately, in the ebullition of a naturally wounded and exasperated feeling on the part of a virtuous and injured *woman*, expressions are indulged in (I think not proper) which leads him to think her affections are estranged. He himself doubted up to that moment, and till then *hoped*. These hopes were destroyed, as I have just implied, from unfortunate and improper expressions—although these expressions naturally resulted from the deeply wounded feelings of a *wife*.

I do not, therefore, see in these expressions a barrier to the restoration of domestic harmony which else Mr. S. would have sought, as he certainly then desired.

It then clearly follows, that if such a reconciliation had been effected, there would therein have been a tacit, if not express admission, of the innocence of all parties, and the equal injustice to all parties (including himself) of further indulgence in unworthy suspicions.

Nothing since, at all admissible, has transpired to place the parties (Mr. S. and Mr. B.) in a different position from that they would have occupied in the event of what is most desirable and due to the happiness of so large a circle—to wit, the reconciliation alluded to. I think, therefore, that Mr. B. has no account to render to Mr. S.—except in the grateful recollection of many, many evidences of sincere and ardent friendship and regard.

It is proper, I think, that I should remind you of the voluntarily proffered asseveration of Mr. B. to Mr. S., on *the oath of a Christian* and *the honor of a gentleman*, of the total and utter injustice to all parties, in the surmises of Mr. S. of impropriety; and that this occurred anterior to the period when—but for the circumstance to which I have alluded—the “restoration of harmony” might readily have been effected, as most certainly it was desirable.

It is equally proper and incumbent on me to add, (if I may take that liberty,) that Mr. Schott’s course throughout the whole of this painful matter, has been under his impressions, and is beyond reproach.

Were it my privilege to advise, (as would be that of a relation, a brother,) my efforts would be unceasing till I had succeeded in restoring domestic peace, in the hope of renewed and continued happiness in Mr. Schott’s own home.—He has given us both much reason, abundant reason to respect and honor him.

But while we sympathise deeply with any one, whether under a delusion or not—it is not my province on this occasion, nor will I consent through any instrumentality of mine, to indulge the excited feelings of another in the perpetration of an act which

is not justified by facts, and which, on the calmest deliberation, my judgment condemns.

Much thinking and future talking, my friend, I doubt not I could have saved myself, by recommending a summary process, which the kind, the sympathising, *the disinterested world* would have been quite gratified in discussing for “nine days ;” and much discussion, for about that period, probably would be spared in relation to my decision.

But I have given my opinion : *I assume the responsibility* : I am answerable, and cheerfully will be, to whomever may dispute the question to the prejudice of either of the really interested parties.

I am, dear sir, very respectfully,

Your friend and obedient servant,

(Signed)

WM. GIBBS McNEILL.

The protest which I addressed to Dr. McC., upon receiving a copy of this remarkable letter, was the following :

MOUNT EPHRAIM, *April 2, 1844.*

MY DEAR SIR :—I have hastily perused the letter of Gen. McNeill, dated March 30, which you have this moment put into my hands. As this matter has been submitted to you and Gen. McNeill and Mr. Otis, I feel bound to abide by your decision, but there are some statements in Gen. McNeill’s letter which are inaccurate and which I must protest against. In any agreement which I consented to make with Mrs. S. before the receipt of the intercepted letter, it was solely with the view of saving her reputation and character ; and I then told her that should she confess what I saw with my own eyes, and shew some penitence for her misconduct, that I would permit her to live in my house, but henceforth and *for ever* in separate apartments. This was the “*harmony*” and the “*home*” I sought, nor can I admit now, nor did I then, that my “suspensions were unworthy” and “ground-

less." I am satisfied Gen. McNeill and yourself will do me the justice to correct the exceptionable part of the letter referred to.

With sentiments, &c.,

I remain sincerely your friend,

(Signed)

JAMES SCHOTT, Jr.

DR. GEORGE McCLELLAN.

Gen. Mc. Neill's letter, I have stated, was written with the direct view of being shewn to Mrs. S.'s friends; and however desirous the writer may have been to render it useful to *me*, it seems he was equally anxious to make it acceptable to *them*. The following note in my possession, from Mr. Butler to Gen. Mc Neill, proves, in fact, that it was written and submitted to their inspection, and to *Mr. Butler's* inspection too, before it ever reached Dr. McC., or was exhibited to Mr. Otis and myself:

DEAR MCNEILL:

Your letter was read last night and much approved of. I send it to you with a *copy carefully made of it*. Pray let it go as soon as possible, and do see Mr. S. this morning, and talk to him as nobody but yourself can talk. A settlement of this matter will relieve much anxiety.

Yours ever sincerely,

(Signed)

P. B.

Tuesday, April 2.

P. S. There is no *d* at the end of McClellan.

It is somewhat singular that this letter should have been submitted to the judgment of a man standing in the attitude in which Mr. B. stood to me, and by a gentleman occupying the position in regard to me which Gen. McN. occupied.

My "protest" was sent to Gen. McNeill by Dr. McC. with the following note:

MOUNT EPHRAIM, NEW JERSEY,
7 o'clock, Tuesday, P. M., April 2.

TO GENERAL MCNEILL,

MY DEAR SIR:—I handed your communication to Mr. Schott this afternoon, at Mount Ephraim, and he entered his immediate protest against some of the material points of your statement as being inaccurate. I now enclose his letter to you for your consideration.

Yours very truly,
(Signed) GEO. McCLELLAN.

To this Gen. McN. the next day, sent the following reply :

UNITED STATES HOTEL, PHILADELPHIA,
Wednesday, 9 A. M., April 3, 1844.

DR. GEORGE McCLELLAN,

Present,

DEAR SIR:—I have received duly, and have read most attentively, Mr. Schott's "protest," submitted through your letter of last evening. I deeply regret the misapprehension under which I am bound to believe I unfortunately labored : for the whole of my efforts, in the adoption of that misapprehension, prove to have been abortive, and *all my conclusions, which were, in my own mind, so completely exculpatory, fall to the ground ; and I am no longer to be quoted as authority.*

I am, most respectfully, your friend and obedient servant,
(Signed) WM. GIBBS MCNEILL.

There was, indeed, occasion "deeply to regret" the misapprehension under which Gen. McN. had labored—or professed to labor—when he wrote his letter of the 30th. It was written for the purpose of effecting a reconciliation ; and it was so superfluously well adapted to the purpose, that it entirely defeated it. It was to effect not merely a universal pacification, but a complete restoration of character to all parties,—the basis of the treaty

being a recognition of the perfect innocence of all the persons concerned. With such a captivating object in view, it is not, perhaps, wonderful that Gen. McN. should invite negotiations, by assuring the opposite party of his "convictions" that there was "no longer any tenable ground for Mr. S. to assert his suspicions"—that he was "bound to doubt, at least, if not fully to admit, that a false medium for the time distorted his usually correct and natural vision"—that "Mr. B. had no account to render to Mr. S., except in the grateful recollection of many evidences of sincere and ardent friendship and regard," &c. &c. Nor is it, perhaps, any more wonderful that the opposite parties should immediately take advantage of these extraordinary admissions, volunteered by a gentleman appearing in the character of my official friend and representative—admissions that seemed to place *me* in the position of conceding the innocence of Mrs. S. and Mr. B., and of admitting that I had injured them by "groundless suspicions." All these admissions were made by Gen. McN.—doubtless in the full expectation that the opposite parties would make the same acknowledgments of my innocence which he, in the authoritative language of my representative, had made of theirs, and that a perfect reconciliation would immediately be effected. This expectation was encouraged by them in every particular, until they were allowed *to take a copy of General McNeill's letter*; and then the whole state of affairs was changed as by a stroke of magic. Every thing was apparently settled, for every thing had been agreed upon by the negotiators; in regard to the reconciliation which Gen. McN. had, and they, up to that moment, professed to have so much at heart; and, in pursuance of arrangements made with them, Gen. McN. himself, accompanied by Dr. McC. came into the country to report proceedings, and carry me back to the city. It was on this occasion, on the afternoon of the 2d April, that I was first made acquainted with Gen. McN.'s letter of the 30th,—four days after it had been written and exhibited to Mr. B. and Mrs. S.'s friends, and they permitted to

take a copy of it,—against which I immediately wrote my protest. Although provoked at the course adopted by Gen. McN., I then believed that his motives were good and friendly. I went back to the city very unwillingly, and returned to my house as reluctantly, and that, not to see or be reconciled to Mrs. S., but to receive Gen. McN. there, as he requested. With regard to Mr. Butler, all that I agreed, or ever thought of agreeing to, was—not to give up my right to fight him,—but, for Mrs. S.'s sake, to *conceal the cause* of quarrel, by substituting another—to take an opportunity to insult him, and thus bring on a quarrel in which *I* would have appeared as the aggressor. To this course I was impelled by the advice, the remonstrances, the entreaties of these friends,—the representations they made of the effect which *direct* proceedings must have upon the feelings of my relatives and those of Mrs. S., and upon her reputation.

In such a spirit as I have described, I suffered Gen. McN. to persuade me to go with him to my house ; where—whatever *my* feelings and anticipations may have been—*he* expected, according to his treaty with the other parties, to find Mrs. S. ready to be reconciled to me. We arrived a little after 11 o'clock in the evening, and found the house empty. Less than one hour before, Mrs. S. had removed, with all her effects, and gone to the house of her father, Mr. Richard Willing. Gen. McN. *then* discovered, that he had been treated with duplicity and treachery—that he had been entrapped into admissions in regard to Mrs. S. which destroyed—or appeared to destroy—the force of my charges against her ; and which placed—or seemed to place—her in the position of the innocent, and me in that of the guilty party. And from that moment, in fact, a hue and cry was raised against me, as having basely devised a plot to ruin the reputation of my *innocent* wife—but for *what purpose* no one, I believe, has yet discovered.

It was then that Gen. McN. wrote his second letter to Dr. McC., in which he revoked the admissions, and manifestly

declared that he had made them *solely for the purpose*, which had proved “abortive,” *of effecting a reconciliation*,—and protested that he was “no longer to be quoted as authority” in relation to them.

Nor was Mrs. S.’s leaving my house the only proof of the change in our respective positions wrought by Gen. McNeill’s letter of March 30th, or of the determination of her friends to improve the advantage they had gained, and to take every step, however violent, which might enlist opinions, public and private against me, as a villain who had brought base charges against a wife, whose innocence appeared from the admissions made in the letter of my authorised friend, Gen. McNeill. Gen. McN.’s letter of revocation was written on the 3d of April. Upon the very next day, the 4th, Mrs. S. went before the Mayor of Philadelphia, and by the following affidavit, accusing me of acts of jealousy and outrage, first gave publicity to an affair which, even for her own sake, I had sought to conceal, and arraigned me before the bar of the public as a jealous, brutal husband, from whom she was obliged to appeal to the laws to protect her life.

Commonwealth, }
 vs. }
 James Schott, Jr. }

Ellen Willing Schott, being duly sworn says—I was married to James Schott, Jr., in the month of October, 1839. From that time till the spring of 1840, we resided in New York. Afterwards, till the autumn of the year 1841, we lived together in my father’s family, except during part of the summer of 1841, during which we were at lodgings at Germantown, and afterwards made an excursion to the Falls of Niagara. The first occasion on which Mr. Schott used towards me personal violence was in the summer of 1841, either at the end of the month of June or the beginning of July, at Germantown, where we were staying for the benefit of my child’s health, who had been ill for a long time, and whose life I was then beginning to despair of. I was

in the habit of having the baby brought during the day into my own chamber, it being larger and more airy an apartment than the one in which the infant and nurse slept. Upon this occasion I wished Mr. Schott to rise that the room might be made ready to receive the visit of Dr. Betton. Upon my urging him to do so, he became violent, and drawing from under his bolster a loaded pocket pistol, which he always had under his pillow at night, he presented it at my breast and threatened to shoot me if I *teased* him any longer. The baby died on the 15th July.

We went to housekeeping in the autumn of 1841. From that time he has been in the habit of frequenting the Clubs. His usual custom was to remain till about two o'clock in the morning, very frequently he did so till daylight; and on some occasions he has not returned till late on the following day. This mode of life had the worst possible effect upon his temper. He was most violent and abusive in his language to me, swearing at me for the most trivial causes. He was so unjust and unreasonable as to cause me much uneasiness. During all this time until May 1843, it was my habit to watch for him at night till his return, being always anxious while he was absent, and thinking if any thing would induce him to reform his hours, it would be witnessing the great uneasiness they caused me. One night when he returned home near daylight, on my remonstrating with him on the lateness of the hour and pleading with him to change his habits, he a second time, presented a pistol and threatened to fire at me. This took place in my bed chamber.

Last summer we went to Brighton. I there accidentally made the acquaintance of a gentleman. I had only conversed with him three times, and then always in company with another lady, when one night I was suddenly awakened from my sleep at 3 o'clock by Mr. Schott, who was standing over me with a light in his hand. He insulted me then in the grossest manner, insisting that the gentleman to whom I have alluded had been in my chamber, using the coarsest language and threatening to put me to death.

So much was I shocked by this outrage that I shrunk from referring to it on the succeeding day. Mr. Schott was equally silent in regard to it, and it was not until six weeks after our return to Philadelphia that he alluded to it—asking me—“What do you think of my jealous fit at New Brighton.” He then said, that at the time he had been near putting me to death.

Mr. Schott made a gentleman's acquaintance, in November last, at a public dinner. He then invited this gentleman to dine at his house, and from that time courted his intimacy in every way, and he became a constant visiter at our house, on the strength of Mr. Schott's frequent invitations. During the course of the winter, this gentleman generally dined two or three times a week at our table, and their intercourse was almost daily,—for if this gentleman did not call on Mr. S., Mr. Schott either wrote for him to come, or went to visit him at his rooms. Mr. Schott this winter had constant dinner parties—the hours kept were very late, his friends very generally not leaving his table till one and two o'clock in the morning. If we went to the theatre or a concert, it was always Mr. Schott's habit to invite home with him the gentlemen he might happen to meet, and it was his custom to remain with them in the dining room till late—until long after I had retired. It was, I think, the beginning of February, that Mr. Schott was confined to his room by illness. The gentleman to whom I have referred, called one evening to see Mr. Schott on business. When he descended from Mr. Schott's room, he entered the parlour to make me a visit. It must at that time have been eleven o'clock, although I was not then aware of the hour. We remained till a quarter before one o'clock. This was the only occasion on which this gentleman remained with me till so late an hour, excepting on one other, when Mr. Schott and another gentleman were of the party. On my going up stairs, I found Mr. Schott violently excited—he was exceedingly angry at this gentleman's having remained so late—he came into my dressing room and seized me by the throat, and

almost strangled me. He afterwards, while I was in bed, attempted twice to choke me. The last time the pain from the pressure was so excessive, that though I had refrained from screaming before, lest the servants might hear the noise, I could do so no longer. On my screaming loudly, Mr. Schott desisted. I immediately rose from the bed, and said I would no longer remain in the room, that my life was not safe with him. He said, "You had better go, for I promise you if you remain here you will not be alive in the morning." I went to my dressing room and laid on the sofa during the rest of the night, securing the doors, as I felt myself to be in danger. On the night of Wednesday, 6th of March, in New York, Mr. Schott threatened to put me to death; and on Tuesday night, 12th of March, in Philadelphia, held a six-barrelled pistol at me, and again said he would put me to death. It was on that night that he said, "I will separate from you now; for if I do not now, you will separate from me at some future time, and then you will crush me." On the same night he drew my wedding ring from my finger by force and violence, and took it away from me, declaring that he considered our marriage dissolved. The first intimation given to my family of my domestic misery, was in the spring of 1843, by my maid, who went to see Dr. Peace, without my knowledge, and told him of the state of suffering in which I then was,—saying that if something were not done, she feared my mind would be affected. Dr. Peace insisted on knowing from me the cause, and I then, for the first time, spoke of my unhappiness.

One instance of violent temper it may be well for me to mention. We were going to the theatre, last October,—Mr. Schott was after the time, and became impatient at my hurrying him—he was exceedingly angry while we were walking—swore he would put me in the gutter, and used such gross and improper language, that I refused to accompany him further, and returned home. These exhibitions of temper were occurring frequently—often daily. All of the abovementioned incidents that took place

subsequently to last October, were made known at the time to my sisters, Mrs. Ridgway and Mrs. Peace. In October I seriously thought of separating from him, and consulted Dr. Peace to that effect. I was most anxious to do so, but was dissuaded by my sisters and Dr. Peace from taking this step.

On the night of Tuesday, 2nd of April, my father came to Mr. Schott's house, and offered me an asylum in his own, and I am now living in his family and under his protection. I have reason to apprehend, and do apprehend, that Mr. Schott may offer me personal violence, if an opportunity for doing so should occur. There is no cause that I am aware of, for the course of conduct which Mr. Schott has pursued towards me, but his irritable and bad temper. There never was the slightest grounds for any of the accusations which he has made against me, or for any of the suspicions which he has professed to entertain.

ELLEN WILLING SCHOTT.

Sworn and subscribed before me

this 4th day of April, 1844.

J. M. SCOTT, *Mayor.*

MAYOR'S OFFICE,

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, *April 17, 1844.*

I certify that the foregoing affidavit is a true copy of the original now on file in this office.

JOHN B. KENNEY, *Clerk of Police.*

I have no inclination to comment upon this unfortunate paper further than, it will be found, I have commented upon it in the letter to Mr. Kuhn, subsequently annexed—upon the objects of those who contrived or recommended such a step to be taken—or upon the charges made in it against me. But I cannot but recommend attention to two circumstances—first, the fact that, having returned from New York on the 11th of March, Mrs. S. had continued *voluntarily* to reside in my house with me (for I was in it whenever I chose to be) from that period up to the 2nd

of April—(a period of *three weeks*,) although she testifies to one act of outrage, alleged to have been committed by me on the 12th of March, and swears that she apprehended further violence, and knew that on the 16th of March I had applied to Mr. Dallas for articles of separation—in truth, up to the period when the *facts* of the case were creeping out ; and, secondly, to the admission made by her, in the fourth paragraph of the affidavit, of her having, at a period when I was, from her own shewing, “confined to my room by illness,” received a visit in the parlor from Mr. Butler who had just departed from my sick bed, at 11 o’clock at night, and remained with her alone “till a quarter before one o’clock in the morning”—a midnight visit of nearly two hours (according to her own confession) permitted by a wife, whose proper post would have been by the bedside of her sick husband. *This* was one of those “*imprudences*” which I alluded to as having happened, and as having caused remonstrance, but as having been ultimately forgiven and forgotten. *In point of fact, as I will here state, that visit lasted from 10 o’clock until half-past one.*

These steps taken by Mrs. S., left me no alternative but to pursue my original determination ; and as the charges made against me in the affidavit exposed me to immediate arrest, (and to be arrested at such a moment would, I well knew, afford an additional ground for the calumnies which were now unsparingly heaped upon me,)—notwithstanding Gen. McNeill’s advising me to surrender myself to the civil authorities, to be bound over to keep the peace ; this gentleman having, at that time, assumed the position of being “technically” my friend—I, the next morning, at 3 o’clock, (Friday, April 5th) left the city ; and that very evening despatched a friend with a letter to Gen. McN. covering a challenge, which I requested him immediately to deliver to Mr. B. I must here explain, that Gen. McN., although summoned by me as an adviser on the field, rather than as a “friend” (speaking technically,) had declared himself willing, if it should be necessary, to

act for me in that capacity ; and Mr. Otis, upon the score of Gen. McN.'s greater age and experience, had expressed a wish that Gen. Mc. N. should act in his place. It was for this reason that I sent the message to Gen. McN. It was presented to him at 2 o'clock, A. M. Saturday morning. He refused to deliver it, as I desired him ; and that morning left Philadelphia for New York,—leaving me, after all his generous efforts in my behalf, in a much more unhappy position than that in which he had found me, and leaving me, too, to get out of it as I could, without expecting any further assistance from his experience or his philanthropy.*

* I feel all the gratitude which any one will say I ought to feel to Gen. McNeill for the services he rendered me in this business. But I cannot help remarking upon the very eccentric manner in which he rendered them. The note from Mr. Butler already given, proves that Gen. McNeill had taken *him* into counsel, while acting as my adviser ; and I have ample proof, in fact, that during the time he was acting for me in that capacity, and professing, before others, to Mr. Butler, that he was my friend, “technically,” he was at least once closeted with Mr. Butler, under lock and key. After coming home with me from the country, and finding that Mrs. S. was gone, and his plans of reconciliation were destroyed, he was excessively enraged, and threatened to challenge Mr. Binney, the legal counsel of Mrs. S.'s friends, as the supposed cause of the defeat of his arrangement. In the midst of this rage, he made a midnight visit, too, to Mr. Butler, (it was the night of our return from the country,) whom he fiercely berated as a confederate in the conspiracy by which he had been entrapped, and declared himself henceforth “technically my friend.” His wrath, however, soon subsided. He is now Mr. Butler's very active and zealous friend : which will appear plainly enough from the following correspondence :

EUTAW HOUSE, BALTIMORE,

April, 28, 1844.

SIR:—I came to this city yesterday, in consequence of a letter which I received from Mr. Samuel W. Smith in the morning, at New Castle, conveying to me information of a statement made by you to him, which I cannot but consider, to say the least of it, extraordinary, more especially after referring to that part of your letter to Dr. McClellan of the 23d inst., in which you say, “These views are, that good taste, refinement, every

As soon as I was informed of Gen. McN.'s refusal to deliver the message, I placed the affair again in the hands of Mr. Otis, principle of propriety, dictate silence in reference to past events." You stated to Mr. Smith that you "professed the kindest feelings for me, but did not believe in the guilt of others,"—that "after a thorough investigation, you are satisfied that I have no just cause of complaint against P. B.,"—that "you so informed me," and that you did not leave me *until I admitted you were right*,—that "*I seemed satisfied my first impressions were incorrect.*"

Now, sir, I have to inform you, first, that, although I have acted with great delicacy towards you, I have felt that I had cause to complain of the way in which you, while professing to be my friend, and acting as I supposed in that character, injured me by unwarrantable admissions which you were not authorised to make, and which you afterwards, upon my protesting against them, *revoked*; and, secondly, that I have indulged this delicacy towards you, because, with all my dissatisfaction, I believed you were acting with good and friendly intentions, and that I had no right to regard your conduct in any other light than as being highly imprudent. But the stand you have now taken, as appears to be indicated in the above statement, releases me from all further obligations of delicacy; and I now tell you, sir, distinctly, that I *never* informed you that I was satisfied I had no just cause of complaint against Pierce Butler; that I *never* admitted you were right: that I *never* was, or *seemed* satisfied that my first impressions were incorrect. In closing this communication, I cannot but regret, that the course you have pursued, has made it imperative on me to address you in the manner I have done. Considering the relation in which you stood towards me, I, surely, had a right to expect that you would have abstained from all remarks reflecting injuriously upon my conduct and character, subsequent to your departure from Philadelphia.

I am, sir, respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES SCHOTT, Jr.

Gen. W. Gibbs McNeill, Stonington.

STONINGTON, CT., *Friday Night.*

May 3d, 1844.

MR. JAMES SCHOTT,

Eutaw House, Baltimore:

But just returned home—I have only this evening received your letter of the 28th ult.

by whom it was immediately attended to. The message was delivered on the evening of the 7th, and immediately accepted.

The following is the substance of my challenge to Mr. Butler,—the original copy of which has been mislaid :

SIR,

April 6, 1844.

Referring to my note under date of March the 11th, at the Astor House, I have now to inform you, that the time has arrived when I can, without compromising others, call upon you for the satisfaction which my deep injuries require. My friend, Gen. McNeill,† will hand you this, and will make the necessary arrangements.

Your obedient servant,

JAMES SCHOTT, JR.

Pierce Butler, Esq.

SIR :—I accept your challenge. In order that you may fully understand the views which I entertain while acceding to your

I am quite sorry to be assured, from its tenor, of a predisposition to regard me other than as I know myself to have been—*in word and deed*—your friend.

As it regards all you have heard and apparently believe, it will suffice to say, I ask no extenuation, even from want of judgment, or any other cause—for what I have said or done.

It would seem—as I rejoice to find—you have abundant friends ; judging, as I do, from the correspondence of some of them with me ; and as it also seems your preference has been to exclude me, of late, as one of them—I beg it will be understood, that I am, by preference on my part, so far reconciled, that I wish not to be remembered till again you shall feel in such extremity as to ask the services of still

Your friend and obedient servant,

WM. GIBBS MCNEILL.

† On Gen. McNeill's refusal to deliver this message, Mr. Otis' name was substituted.

request, I send you the enclosed. § You will perceive from its date, that it was written immediately after my return from New York, but I was deterred from sending it in consequence of a belief that your mind must have undergone a change in respect to the unworthy and unjust suspicions which you entertained against me; which belief was founded on the fact, that for two days after you had made a charge of so grave a character against me, you not only continued to occupy the same parlor and to take your meals at the same table with me, but allowed your wife to do the same.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

PIERCE BUTLER.

JAMES SCHOTT, JR. ESQ.

April 8th, 1844.

EUTAW HOUSE, *April 11th, '44.*

MY DEAR SIR,

I feel it due to you and to myself, to explain to you the concluding paragraph of Mr. Butler's acceptance of my challenge. Mrs. Ridgway's prayers, entreaties, and tears, alone influenced me in suffering Mr. B. to remain in my parlor at the Astor House, after the discovery of his base and villainous conduct,—and although this promise was made by me most reluctantly, yet having made it, when influenced by her tears and distress, I felt bound to keep it. She begged me, as being under my protection, not to expose them in New York, in a public hotel, and that this would most assuredly be the case, should Mr. B. be dismissed from the party. I was weak enough to yield to her solicitations, but, as you well know from the letter addressed to him on the

§ This extraordinary letter I handed to Mr. Otis, to be returned to Mr. Butler, being unwilling to receive any communication from him other than the acceptance of my challenge. I have since understood, from gentlemen to whom this letter was exhibited by Gen. McNeill, that it was dated the 15th of March, and is the letter referred to by Mrs. S. in her letter to Mrs. Ridgway on the following day, March 16, and which I intercepted.

morning of my departure from the Astor House, and from my subsequent application to you to act as my friend, the day after my arrival in Philadelphia, that I have never wavered in my determination to punish this insidious libertine, but that I have been prevented and delayed by causes over which I had no control,—and that this is a base trick of his, worthy of his consummate art and cunning, to place me in a false position before my friends and the world. I told Mr. B. distinctly, the Sunday before we left, that nothing but my promise to Mrs. Ridgway protected him from my just indignation while in New York.

Your friend,

(Signed)

JAMES SCHOTT, Jr.

HARRISON GRAY OTIS, Jr. Esq.

Mr. Otis was referred to Mr. Alston, Mr. B.'s friend, who was empowered to arrange with Mr. O. all the necessary preliminaries. These gentlemen met on Sunday, the 7th; on which occasion Mr. Otis was informed by Mr. Alston, that Mr. B. selected pistols as the weapons. At the same time, Mr. Alston declined making any further arrangements as to the manner in which the duel should be fought, or as to the time and place; but he appointed a second meeting with Mr. Otis, to take place at Washington, on Saturday, the 13th; at which meeting all the preliminaries were to be completed, and the articles drawn up and signed.

When I sent Mr. Otis with the message, on the 6th of April, I had reason to believe that Mr. B. would appoint the earliest possible period for the meeting; for I had been told he had expressed a desire to settle the affair immediately, and an intention, upon receipt of a message from me, to meet me the following morning, at six paces. I have ample proof of this; which I am ready to produce, whenever he shall dare to deny it. I firmly believed he would appoint the meeting for Monday, the 8th; and it was in this belief that, upon Sunday the 7th, having not then heard,

nor, indeed, expecting to hear, from Mr. Otis until late that night, or early the next morning, I wrote and transmitted to my friend Hartman Kuhn, Jr. Esq., the following letter, containing the comments on Mrs. S.'s affidavit previously referred to :

NEW CASTLE, DELAWARE,

April 7th, 1844, Sunday morning.

MY DEAR HARTMAN: On the eve of a most solemn occasion, with the possibility of my being soon ushered into the presence of my Maker, I have thought it proper to make the following statement, which I leave in your hands as my friend, to vindicate my character and honor. Feeling as I do, the awful responsibility, I shall write the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help me God.

An affidavit has been filed against me in the Mayor's Court, by my wife, stating that I presented a loaded pistol to her breast, and threatened her life. This I *solemnly deny*, and can only account for such a course on the part of my wife, from the fact that I had, several weeks before, applied to counsel to obtain a separation from her; and articles of separation had been drawn up by him, which were not executed, in consequence of the delay of my friends in arranging an affair of honor connected with this separation. Suffice it for me to say, that this wife, who has sworn her life against me, continued for several weeks after the alleged violence, to live, at her own choice, in my house,—to which I came whenever I desired; and the day after having made the affidavit, at 11 o'clock in the morning, she was perfectly willing to return to it. *The just ground I had for a separation from her, I shall not reveal here*, but am sure, that *time, conscience, and remorse, will inflict misery enough upon her*, without my adding to it. By the great delay in getting one or other of my friends to Philadelphia, and their continued and protracted consultations, I have been prevented from calling to account the villain who has brought all this misery upon me,—I

mean Pierce Butler. As soon as it was possible—as I can prove by documents in the hands of my friend Mr. Otis, I have done so ; and if I have suffered in the estimation of my friends from this delay, those friends who have had the responsibility of this affair, are accountable, and not myself. I refer particularly to the course pursued by Gen. McNeill.

I have also here solemnly to state, that I intercepted a letter from Mrs. Schott, addressed to Mrs. Ridgway, her sister, dated 16th March, 1844, the concluding paragraph of which I hereby give you. *Extract*:—"Perhaps it would be better for Mr. B. [meaning Mr. Butler] to send the letter to-night, but I do not advise, you can best judge ;—he [meaning myself] appears *calm* and *resolved*,—he is not *violent*. I only *hope* it may be *suicide* he has determined on, but I think a *duel* will be the consequence." It was on the evening that I intercepted this letter, that I applied to Geo. M. Dallas, Esq., as my counsel to draw up the articles of separation. I also *do most solemnly say, that the other charges* made against me in the affidavit, (at least those that I have heard,) by this unhappy and desperate woman, *are greatly exaggerated or entirely false* ; and that if I am to meet my God ere long, it will be with the consciousness of having been a kind, affectionate, and indulgent husband to her. And all this I again, and perhaps for the *last time, solemnly aver to be true*, on the word of a man, who may never again be able to assert his innocence, and his wrongs, and whose tongue and hand may soon be stilled by death.

(Signed)

JAMES SCHOTT, JR.

HARTMAN KUHN, JR., ESQ.

Upon learning the next day, at Wilmington, that the challenge had been accepted, and that the preliminaries were to be settled at Washington, on the Saturday following, I proceeded to Baltimore, and thence to Washington ; where, on the 14th, at midnight, a few hours before the duel was fought ; and in view of all

its possibly fatal consequence to myself, I wrote another letter to Mr. Kuhn, reaffirming the truth of all the statements made in my letter of the 7th.

WASHINGTON, *Sunday Evening,*
April, 14th, 1844.

My DEAR HARTMAN :—At last I have brought Mr. Butler to a meeting, and I expect to go out to-morrow morning at 5, in the district. The terms which his friend has proposed to me, and insisted upon, are unusual, and such as my friends would not have permitted me to accept, were the quarrel an ordinary one. This matter will be fully explained to you by Mr. Otis; but I believe there is justice on High, and that the villain will be punished for invading my peace and honor.

Let me repeat to you here, my dear Hartman, and perhaps for the last time, solemnly reiterate the truth and the whole truth of the statement made you this day week at New Castle; and entreat you, should I fall, to do me justice. I ask nothing more than that a plain and unvarnished tale of my wrongs and sufferings should be placed before my friends and the world.

I must now try to get a little repose, as I leave here at 3 in the morning.

God bless you my dear friend.

Yours until death,

(Signed)

SCHOTT.

HARTMAN KUHN, Jr., Esq.

The day before this letter was written,—that is, on Saturday the 13th, Mr. Otis and Mr. Alston had their second meeting, and after getting over certain difficulties which will be found described in Mr. Otis' published statement, agreed upon the articles, as set forth in the same statement.

Mr. OTIS' STATEMENT.

In the affair of honor which took place at Bladensburg between James Schott, Jr., and Pierce Butler, on Monday, the 15th inst., the second, friend, and surgeon of the former gentleman assumed the responsibility of withdrawing him from the contest after the second fire, on account of a physical disability, which rendered the terms insisted on by the opposite parties, in the judgment of Mr. Schott's friends, unequal. I therefore deem it due to my principal and myself to state that this course was pursued contrary to his express wishes, and to give an authentic account of the occurrences on the field.

And first, it is deemed proper to premise, that the meeting was deferred by the challenged party, for eight days after the message passed, and until Saturday evening, 13th inst. none of the preliminaries were made known, except the weapons to be used; and as the terms proposed were unusual, our principal labored under the disadvantage of being kept in the dark, as to the mode of fight, while the other party not only had the superiority of being acquainted with those terms, but could employ the interim for preparation and practice.

The *Preliminaries* were these:—

1. The principals are to stand back to back, at the distance of ten paces from one another.

2. The pistols to be loaded with powder and one ball by the seconds in presence of the friends of their principals.

3. When the principals have taken their respective positions, the seconds shall then hand their pistols to them and shall forthwith proceed to take their places.

4. The seconds giving the word shall then ask the principals, "Gentlemen, are you ready?" The principals shall then hold their pistols muzzles down, and when ready each shall answer "ready." Then, and not till then, shall the second who gives the word say, "Fire, one, two, three, stop."

5. The parties are not to wheel until the word fire has been given.

6. Either principal firing before the word "fire" or after the word "stop" shall instantly be shot down by the second of his adversary.

7. After both parties have answered "ready" there shall be a considerable pause before the word fire is given, to prevent the parties firing before the time.

8. The second giving the word shall, before the parties take their respective places, fully explain the manner and time in which he intends to give the word.

(Signed)

JOSEPH ALSTON,
HARRISON GRAY OTIS, Jr.
14th April, 1844.

Struck with surprise at the uncommon mode of warfare proposed in art. 1, the *abstract question* with regard to the propriety of *wheeling*, in duelling, *without reference to case or parties*, was submitted to four gentlemen of the highest character then present in Washington, whose opinion would be decisive in any court of honor. Unanimously and without hesitation they pronounced it unusual, and that any second would be justifiable in withdrawing, at once his principal, if such an arrangement were persisted in. But our objections were more strenuous in the case in point, because this method was rendered more unjustifiable and unequal, by an unfortunate physical disability in our principal. The following letter upon the subject was addressed, on the 14th inst., by Dr. McClellan to Mr. Otis.

Dr. McClellan's letter to Mr. Otis.

To H. G. OTIS, JR., ESQ.—My Dear Sir:—The swelling and inflammation in Mr. Schott's right foot is decidedly worse this morning. It is situated deeply in the anterior and central portion of the sole of the foot, and is so tender and painful that it will

incommode him even in a standing position, and prove quite painful in attempting to wheel or walk.

Yours very truly,
(Signed) GEO. McCLELLAN.

Sunday morning, April 14, 1844.

Mr. Otis at once enclosed the above in the following to Mr. Alston, considering that a mere statement of the facts would be sufficient to procure an arrangement that would place both parties upon an equality.

Mr. Otis' letter to Mr. Alston, enclosing Dr. McClellan's certificate.

JOSEPH ALSTON, Esq.—My Dear Sir :—I send you the enclosed certificate from Dr. McClellan, and submit it to your consideration. You will readily perceive that it refers to article first, and that from the statements in his letter, it will be impossible for Mr. Schott to wheel with any advantage.

(Signed) HARRISON GRAY OTIS, Jr.
April 14, 1844.

But the chivalry and generosity of feeling so much relied upon proved to have been entirely gratuitous ; even when I proposed a reference to a court of honor, it was refused, and a proposition made at Mr. Schott's request, to place the parties face to face, from one to six paces apart, was immediately declined. The following is

Mr. Alston's reply.

April 14, 1844.

Dear Sir :—In reply to your note of this afternoon, I have only to say that I regret that Mr. Schott declines complying with one of the *terms*, (article 1st,) which as the friend of the challenged party, *I* have a right to claim. They are neither unusual nor un-

just, nor do I feel myself authorised in consenting to any change. I shall, therefore, have my friend on the ground, at five o'clock to-morrow morning, and at that hour shall await you at the tavern in Bladensburg, to conduct you and your principal to the place I have chosen. If this arrangement be not accepted on the part of Mr. Schott, I have only to say that this letter, so far as I am concerned, closes our correspondence on this subject.

I am, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed)

JOSEPH ALSTON.

Finding, notwithstanding the remonstrances of his friends that Mr. Schott, regardless of any inequality, persisted in meeting Mr. Butler, even on his own terms, Mr. Otis closed the correspondence with the annexed letter:—

Mr. Otis' reply to Mr. Alston's letter.

April 14, 1844.

Dear Sir:—In reply to your note handed to me a few moments since, I will observe that no objection was taken to any of the terms proposed upon which Mr. Schott and Mr. Butler were to meet, except that one which required the parties to stand back to back, and wheel, and fire; and this objection was made, because Mr. Schott's foot is in such a condition as to render it impracticable for him to fight in that mode without great disadvantage, and giving his adversary an unusual and unequal advantage over him. Notwithstanding, it is believed that according to the etiquette and rules governing affairs of honor Mr. Schott would be justified in declining to meet Mr. Butler under his present physical infirmity, and that I consider it disadvantageous to insist upon such unequal terms, Mr. Schott will meet Mr. Butler at the time and place, and upon the terms prescribed.

(Signed)

HARRISON GRAY OTIS, Jr.

JOSEPH ALSTON, Esq.

An unusual delay, which *we* had no part in causing, occurred upon the ground; and after the parties were finally placed, Mr. Otis read the following protest:

Protest read by Mr. Otis on the field.

“I feel obliged, gentlemen, though I have consented, in the name of my principal, that this rencontre shall take place, to state that I consider his lameness as disabling him from wheeling, and rendering it unequal. I refer to the medical attendants present, if it is not a case in point. I owe this statement in justice to myself and Dr. McClellan.”

This, however, passed unheeded, and the word of command fell to Mr. Otis. A shot was exchanged without effect. After another delay, preparations were completed for a second exchange. Mr. Schott, on account of his utter disability to wheel, or even to support himself upon his right foot, lost his fire, and received with front presented, the full and deliberate aim of his adversary.

Determined that a contest, under circumstances so unequal and unfair, should no longer continue, his second, friend and surgeon, insisted, notwithstanding Mr. Schott's remonstrance, on withdrawing him from the field.

HARRISON GRAY OTIS, Jr.

Mr. Smith's letter to Mr. Otis.

BALTIMORE, *April 17th*, 1844.

At the request of James Schott, Jr., I accompanied him to the field as a witness on the 15th inst. I performed this duty with the utmost reluctance, from a solemn conviction that the fight would not be fair and equal, owing to the diseased condition of Mr. Schott's foot, as described in Dr. McClellan's certificate to Mr. Otis. After the second shot, it became so manifest to me that Mr. Schott could not wheel as required that I felt it due to my own character, to interfere and protest against the continu-

ance of the duel, notwithstanding his entreaties to the contrary. Mr. Schott's deportment throughout the whole proceeding was calm, dignified, and collected; nor did he manifest any excitement till the interference of his friends called it forth. It may not be amiss to state, that on Mr. Schott's return to Baltimore, he called in Dr. Gibson, the surgeon of the other party, for his advice, who stated, in my presence, that his foot was much inflamed, and very sensitive to the touch, and he recommended a continuance of the application that had been suggested by Dr. McClellan.

(Signed)

S. W. SMITH.

This statement, which was drawn from Mr. Otis by various false and slanderous reports to which malicious persons endeavored to give currency, was the occasion of a reply from Mr. Alston, which appeared in the papers.

GEORGETOWN, SOUTH CAROLINA,

April 30, 1844.

A newspaper, containing Mr. Otis' statement of the circumstances connected with the recent duel between Pierce Butler, Esq., and James Schott, Jr., Esq., has just been placed in my hands. In justice to my principal and to myself, I feel called upon to make such comments on his narrative as shall have the effect of removing erroneous impressions that may have been occasioned by it.

Mr. Otis appears to consider it singular that the meeting was deferred by the challenged party for eight days after the message passed. The challenge was handed to me on Monday, the 8th April; on Tuesday morning, Mr. Butler and myself left Philadelphia, and reached Washington at 11 o'clock on Wednesday. The intervening four days were not more than sufficient to allow my friend to make the requisite arrangement of his affairs before engaging in a serious contest, and to enable me to obtain the attendance of a surgeon, as well as to procure the services of

another friend, as had been agreed upon, as witness of the duel. I certainly was not aware that any great haste was either expected or required on my part, as the other party had exhibited no extraordinary impatience in demanding satisfaction, but had permitted a whole month to pass, after receiving the alleged injury, before even sending the challenge. Mr. Otis considers the opportunity offered for preparation and practice, during the short period after our arrival in Washington, which intervened before the duel, as likely to have given Mr. Butler greatly the advantage; but while he reproaches us with an advantage in the delay of four days, he totally forgets the four weeks of preparation which Mr. Schott indulged himself in before sending the hostile message; and Mr. Otis expresses great surprise at my proposition to place the parties back to back, which would require them to wheel and fire; he pronounces it "a very uncommon mode of warfare;" and to strengthen his impression, he cites the opinion of four unnamed gentlemen, which, he is satisfied, would be regarded as decisive in any court of honor. With all due deference to such high authority, I think differently; and my own conviction on the subject was confirmed by the replies of all the friends of whom I made the inquiry; and I submit the question, without hesitation, to the decision of that portion of the community, which professes to have any acquaintance with the etiquette and customs which regulate duels, whether, upon the plea of its being unusual for the second of the challenged party to require the combatants to wheel and fire, the second of the challenger would be considered justifiable in withdrawing him from the contest.

Mr. Otis further observes that his objections on this point were more strenuous "because of an unfortunate physical disability in his principal." Now let it be remembered that on the Saturday evening when the terms of meeting were submitted to him he exhibited surprise, and as I think dissatisfaction, with the first article; but nothing was then said of any physical disability on

Mr. Schott's part. I attributed his reluctance to accede to it, to a feeling of disappointment on finding that the parties would be required to fight in a manner a little varied from that in which his friend had probably become a proficient by the previous month's practice. On Sunday, about 12 o'clock, a doctor's note, relating "to the anterior and central portion of the sole of the right foot," was laid before me; this, I must confess, did not produce the anticipated effect in inducing me to consent to the proposed change in the position of the parties. To wheel and fire is so simple and easy a movement, that any one who can stand up may perform it without the least difficulty; it requires only that the right foot should be moved lightly behind the left, being in fact nothing more than a *half* wheel, and performed by any one, with the greatest facility, in less than five minutes practice: those who doubt, have but to make the experiment, and they will soon be convinced that I am right. I must also observe that, after his arrival on the ground, Mr. Schott continued to stand for some minutes, and, as I thought, without any apparent inconvenience to himself, although one of our carriage cushions was twice offered to him as a seat, but declined.

Mr. Otis proceeds to complain of a want of "chivalry and generosity" in my not consenting to place Mr. Butler in such a manner as, in his opinion, Mr. Schott's convenience required. Now, according to my ideas on the subject, enough of chivalry and generosity had been exhibited by my friend when he insisted on my accepting, in his behalf, a challenge from a man whom he had never in any way wronged or insulted. As the challenged party, he had certain rights sanctioned by custom, of which I was determined he should not be deprived; and, as his second, I had assumed duties from the faithful performance of which I was resolved nothing should make me swerve. It seems also a matter of astonishment to Mr. Otis, that I would not refer article first, to the decision of umpires; now *I* do really think it would have been extreme folly and weakness on my part

to have consented to submit as a question to be decided by others, that which I regarded as a right already settled in my favor.

He next adverts to what he now calls a proposition of Mr. Schott, to place the parties face to face at the distance of from one to six paces. When this was first suggested, I took no notice of it, as I did not think it required a reply ; upon its being again mentioned, I remarked to him, that his objections to *my terms* must first be admitted before I should hold myself at liberty to think of any change, and it would then be *my right* to make new propositions.

Again, he animadverts, with what object I cannot perceive, on what he considers an unusual delay on the ground. My reply is, that from the moment of our arrival there, we both were actively engaged in making the necessary preparations ; namely, in selecting two equal and suitable positions for the parties, in measuring the distance, loading the pistols, reading the articles of combat, and explaining to the principals the mode in which the word would be given. After the first fire, I commenced reloading, as soon as Mr. Otis apprised me that his friend wished to go on. Mr. Otis next remarks, that Mr. Schott lost his second fire by his utter disability to wheel ; this may be his opinion ; it is certainly not mine. If his pistol went off before he intended it should, it was his own fault. "Mr. Schott then received," as Mr. Otis informs us, "with full front presented, the fire of his adversary ;" of course he must have wheeled before Mr. Butler fired, to have done so.

I consider the protest read on the ground by Mr. Otis, after the principals had taken their places, and at the moment the word was about to be given, as both ill-timed and uncalled for ; and certainly it was not entitled to the least consideration from me. The extraordinary course of protesting against a proceeding which, as Mr. Schott's friend, he had it in his power to control, and to offer a protest against his own act, involve an inconsistency which must be palpable to every unprejudiced mind. If he con-

sidered my refusal to yield to a change in article first so unjust, why did he not withdraw his principal at once, as he took the responsibility of doing so after the second fire. We were willing to go on as long as we should have been required so to do by the other party, and I think the result of the duel offers pretty strong evidence that the arrangements made by me placed the parties as nearly as possible, under all circumstances, upon a footing of equality.

In conclusion, I take occasion to say that, in all the proceedings and arrangements which have any relation to this duel, I acted solely on my own responsibility ; I allowed Mr. Butler no voice in the matter ; in my whole course I was governed by a stern sense of duty and fairness to all concerned, and never in any way sought to obtain an undue advantage for my principal. These observations on Mr. Otis' statement should have been furnished immediately after its appearance, but I left Baltimore for South Carolina on the day after the duel, of which intended movement I informed Mr. Otis the night previous to the meeting.

I confess I should have been better pleased, had he offered to unite with me in preparing a joint statement to be signed by both of us.

JOSEPH ALSTON.

As in this statement of Mr. Alston's, he presumed to favor the public with an opinion of his own, in regard to the cause of quarrel between his friend and myself, which was injurious to me, I felt myself called upon to notice it by a card ; which was the first and only occasion in which I departed from the rule my feelings prompted me to adopt, of avoiding any movement which would place me in the attitude of *publicly* charging, although only by implication or indirection, any thing against Mrs. S. But a public assertion like that, made by an authorised friend of Mr. B., required an answer as public and as authoritative.

BALTIMORE, *May 16th*, 1844.

My attention has been called to a newspaper communication of the 13th inst., over the signature of Mr. Joseph Alston, in reply to a statement made by my friend, Mr. H. G. Otis, Jr., explanatory of the circumstances attending a late affair of honor in which I was involved.

I feel great reluctance in appearing before the public to notice Mr. Alston's statement, (which will be found, for the most part, sufficiently answered in Mr. Otis' original paper,) but it contains two objectionable passages, which demand a reply. The first asserts that I "exhibited no extraordinary impatience in demanding satisfaction, but permitted a whole month to pass, after receiving the alleged injury, before even sending the challenge." If Mr. Alston will examine the invitation handed him by Mr. Otis, he will find it based upon the following note, addressed to his principal in New York, within thirty-six hours (Sunday intervening) after the injury received :

SIR :—I scarcely deem it necessary to say to you, that on our return to Philadelphia all intercourse between us must cease, and that your visits to my family must be discontinued. I trust that the time may yet come, when I shall be able, without compromising others, to vindicate my own honor.

Your obedient servant,

JAMES SCHOTT, JR.

Astor House, March 11th, 1844.

Pierce Butler, Esq.

Mr. Alston was expressly informed by Mr. Otis, that the subsequent delay was caused by circumstances over which I had no control.

The second passage, in which Mr. Alston speaks of the chivalry of his friend, in insisting on his accepting, on that friend's behalf, "a challenge from a man whom he had never in any way

wronged or insulted," is the more objectionable, as Mr. A. presumes in it publicly and gratuitously to express an opinion on the merits of the cause of quarrel between his principal and myself,—a matter in which he could have no personal knowledge. All his information on this subject could be derived only from his principal. Mr. Butler, in stating that he had "never wronged or insulted" me, imposed upon the credulity of his friend by an assertion which had no foundation in truth, and which I now pronounce to be false. The presence of gentlemen of the highest character, as witnesses on the field, renders needless any further notice of Mr. Alston's remarks.

Perhaps I owe an apology to the public, upon whose attention I should not thus have obtruded, had not justice to myself required it. I shall not, hereafter, notice any communication in relation to this matter, made *through the medium of the press*.

JAMES SCHOTT, JR.

This paper concludes the history of the affair with Mr. Butler, of which I do not hesitate to make two remarks: first, that in keeping me,—from Sunday, the day when he, through his friend, designated the weapons, till Saturday evening, when the arrangements were completed,—ignorant of his intention to fight by *wheeling*, he took a dishonorable advantage of me, as retaining to himself an *opportunity to practice* that mode of fighting, from which I was debarred; and secondly, that in insisting, through his second, upon the field, that I should be compelled to fight in that way, when medical testimony then present,—his own surgeon as well as mine,—and my own appearance, must have convinced him of my physical inability to do so,—unless at the greatest disadvantage,—his motives were still *meaner*, because *cowardly* and *murderous*.

As soon after the meeting with Mr. Butler as the condition of my foot would allow me to travel, I went to New Castle, to seek legal advice of Mr. Clayton as to the steps proper to be pursued

by me in relation to two objects which I had very much at heart,—first, to make answer to the charges brought against me by Mrs. S. in her affidavit; and secondly, to obtain a divorce. I was well aware that my absence from Philadelphia gave opportunity to a thousand slanderous accusations, which my enemies busily circulated against me, and that my silence under the affidavit was quoted as a proof of the truth of all its statements; and I desired to go to Philadelphia to put in a counter-affidavit, or take any other proper legal step, to disprove the charges, and confound those who labored so industriously to crush me. I learned from Mr. C., to my mortification, that I could not pursue both these objects together, without danger of foiling myself in the one which my feelings and interests represented as the most important,—that is, the divorce. I learned that Mrs. S. herself, had instituted, or was on the eve of instituting, proceedings to obtain a divorce; grounding her application upon the alleged ill-treatment, as charged against me in her affidavit. It was his opinion, that her application, grounded upon these charges, could not be granted, if I should appear and disprove any of them; and that by appearing and disproving them, I should array myself in an attitude of actual *opposition* to the divorce which I most ardently desired to obtain; and thereby defeat it. He counselled me, therefore, not to go to Philadelphia,—not to appear in answer to the affidavit or the application for divorce, but to suffer it to go—and thus, in fact, *obtain* it—by default. He fortified this advice by representing, what my own feelings deeply responded to, the necessity of maintaining the rule of delicacy which I had, up to the present moment, religiously observed; since it was impossible for me to appear in court in any character whatever, without making disclosures which must harrow the feelings of friends, and give notoriety to circumstances which it was my own wish, if possible, to cover up in darkness. The following are his written letters of advice :

NEW CASTLE, DELAWARE,

April 19th, 1844.

SIR :

Having attentively considered the circumstances of your case, as you have reported them to me, and as they appear from the various documents presented, I submit the following as my opinion and legal advice as to the best course which you can pursue.

The whole case, I need not say, is one peculiarly delicate ; and the attempt to carry it into the courts, in any form, could not but prove distressing to the feelings of yourself, your friends and of numerous innocent persons. You cannot meet the affidavit, nor enter a counter affidavit, nor, indeed, take any legal steps whatever, without giving publicity to circumstances which it were desirable might be buried in the deepest oblivion, and from which, I think, as a man of feeling, you would desire to avert the public gaze. I cannot, indeed, counsel you to take any such steps. A passive and silent course on your part will be the most dignified, and the proper one : and this, sir, is the course which I recommend you to pursue. There are some situations in this world in which it becomes a man to suffer in silence, out of regard to the feelings of others. Those of your honored parents and of the highly respectable family with which you have been connected by marriage, merit a sacrifice of self ; and, however painful that sacrifice may be, a generous spirit should yield it without a murmur. If you return to Philadelphia in your present state of disturbed and exasperated feeling, in the midst of the rumors and foolish reports growing out of your late meeting with Mr. Butler at Bladensburg, no good can come of it that I can foresee ; while I can easily anticipate evils,—among the many who have participated on the one side or the other, in the existing excitement,—which ordinary prudence could not be expected to avert. I advise you *not* to go back to Philadelphia. If you return to that city and resist the legal application, said to be contemplated by the opposite party, for a divorce, it is my opinion, from the evi-

dence before me, that it cannot be obtained. It is not worth while to go to Philadelphia merely to be bound over to keep the peace. There is no indictment there for you to meet; nor is there any reason to believe that the folly or passion of any one could institute any proceeding of a criminal character, requiring you to attend there. In regard to the supposed intention to apply for a divorce, I advise you to suffer others to adopt such further course as they may deem necessary; to make no opposition; and even facilitate, so far as it may be in your power, such efforts as may be made towards effecting that final legal separation, which would seem to be the most desirable close of circumstances so untoward and unhappy.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN M. CLAYTON.

JAMES SCHOTT, JR., Esq.

P. S. I omitted to say, in reply to your request on the subject, that if my professional aid should at any time be required by you, in consequence of action which I do not anticipate, it shall be at your service.

J. M. C.

NEW CASTLE, DELAWARE,

May 30th, 1844.

MY DEAR SIR,

I have resolved on my course as your counsel in the Divorce case, after full and deliberate consideration. I intend to let the decree go by default,—first, because by that means we adopt the course best calculated to facilitate the application and proceedings for the divorce—which divorce is of all things most essential to your future happiness; secondly, because by thus not becoming a party to the suit, we are not under any implied obligation, honorary or otherwise, to repel or disprove any accusations which lie at the foundation of the whole proceeding. *Your defence* against these accusations cannot be made in this suit, without aban-

doing all hope of separating yourself from Mrs. Schott. When the decree is finally entered, you can set yourself right with your friends and the whole world if you choose. The decree will be had in the shortest possible time—but I am yet unable to fix the time with any precision.

Faithfully your friend,

JOHN M. CLAYTON.

MR. JAMES SCHOTT, JR.

These letters of advice I adopted as my rule of action. I did not go to Philadelphia,—I did not appear in court to answer either the affidavit or the application for divorce. I instructed my counsel to give every possible facility in his power to the speedy obtaining of the divorce; and I have reason to believe that he did so. The consequence of this was that the divorce was obtained,—obtained on the *ex parte* testimony of *one witness*,—without any cross-examination on my part, and without the slightest knowledge of mine, up to this moment, what the testimony is. I have heard, indeed, from a friend, a statement that the testimony was of such a character as could have been easily contradicted, if I had been at liberty to do so. The consequence, I repeat, of this action on my part, was that the divorce, to my inexpressible satisfaction, was granted.

Ever since Gen. McNeill's letter of March the 30th was *copied*, I have been the victim of innumerable calumnies. Letters have been written, statements made, and copies of that monstrous affidavit circulated in every city, and sent to every place where I had an acquaintance or friend. Even after I had, under the advice of my counsel, retired to another city, with a view to deprive the slanderers of my reputation of any further pretext for persecuting me, while suffering in silence under all the former calumnies which had been heaped upon me,—nay, even after the divorce itself had been obtained, unceasing efforts have been still continued to misrepresent, to revile, to calumniate, to destroy

me. But I am now *free* ; and, although I still have no desire to say one word more in explanation of the unhappy circumstances connected with the occurrence of March, and would rather suffer in the esteem of those who do not know me than contribute to the further exposure of those who have wronged me and sought to crush me forever—I am free, whenever I may be called upon, to answer to any charges that have been, or that may be, made by any person whatever, and to defend myself from, and, if need be, to punish, every assault upon my honor.

But I will not conclude this statement without proclaiming the infamy of Pierce Butler, who, under the mask of friendship, ruined the peace and happiness of an unoffending family, and then sought to escape the consequences by resorting to the meanest artifices, the most cowardly subterfuges, and the most despicable falsehoods.

JAMES SCHOTT, JR.

EUTAW HOUSE,
Baltimore, July 29, 1844.

ERRATA.

Page 8, 4th line of Mr. Goodwin's letter, read "I most sincerely," instead of "I most seriously."

Page 6, 2nd and 3d lines, read "BUT I DO NOT ADVISE, YOU CAN BEST JUDGE," instead of "BUT I DO NOT ADVISE YOU, YOU CAN BEST JUDGE."

Page 11, 14th line of Gen. McNeill's letter, the following note should have been inserted after the word "final:"

I need only say that the position of umpire was *assumed* by Gen. McNeill, and *not delegated by me*; and I have reason to believe that Dr. McClellan did not understand that he was to act in that capacity. It is clear from the tenor of Mr. Goodwin's letter that he did not consider the case as susceptible of adjustment, and that I entertained the same opinion, may be inferred from the fact, that after I received his letter, my correspondence with him ceased. I had not time to notice this unwarrantable assumption of Gen. McNeill's, and other exceptionable parts of his letter, in the hurried protest which I made before our departure for the city.



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